

"The Gothic" Apartment House
47 Allen Street
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-669

HABS
MASS
13-BOST
63-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MASS-669

"THE GOTHIC" APARTMENT HOUSE

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Street Address: 47 Allen Street, Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts.
Demolished 1960

Final Owner: Boston Redevelopment Authority; neighborhood office
at 25 Blossom Street, Boston, Massachusetts

Brief Statement This apartment is typical of the housing built about
of Significance: 1900 which was demolished for the Boston West End
Redevelopment.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Date of erection: Around 1900 (on the basis of style).
- B. Likely sources not yet investigated:
Suffolk Co. Land Records
Boston City Assessors Records

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
1. Architectural interest and merit: This is a five-story, masonry apartment, typical of the housing built about 1900 in the West End of Boston.
 2. Condition of fabric: Fair to good.
- B. Technical Description of Exterior:
1. General layout: The building is five stories high, four bays wide, and faces southwest. The front half of the building has party walls on both sides. The rear half of the building has a party wall on the south-east side and a narrow yard on the northwest side. Access to the side yard from the front is by a narrow alley, or hall, through the front half of the building with a door on the street in the left-hand, or northwest, bay. The main entrance to the building is at the opposite side of the front in the southeast bay.
 2. Foundations: Dressed regular coursed ashlar.
 3. Wall construction: The ground floor and the outside bays of the second, third, and fourth floors are of dressed, regular coursed ashlar. The middle two bays of the second, third, and fourth floors and the entire fifth floor are of brick.

4. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front doorway is made of dressed stone in Gothic detail, finished with stained glass transom windows. The entrance door, paneled and finished with plate glass, is original. The alley door is similar, in a simple round-headed opening with a rolled molding of dressed stone.
- b. Windows and shutters: The windows are double-hung with single-light sash. Window openings are either faced with dressed stone ornamented with rolled moldings, or are plain brick with flat arched lintels.

5. Roof:

- a. Shape: Flat.
- b. Cornice: Ornamental cornice of inverted cones, beaded molding, and reeded fascia, may be of tin, as are others in the neighborhood.

C. Technical Descriptions of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The apartment house has a stairwell on the southeast side of the building, with apartments to the left. There are two rooms in front, one in the middle opposite the stairwell, and two rooms behind the stairwell, one large and one small. In the rear is a large room and stairwell.
2. Stairways: Straight run with winders and with baluster and rail.
3. Flooring: Medium wide boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster ceilings and walls with dado, of paneled wainscot in the entry, and elsewhere (when it occurs) of horizontal matched boarding.
5. Doorways and doors: Panel doors with sunk panels arranged in a horizontal pattern typical of the last quarter of the nineteenth century.
6. Trim: Pilaster trim on plinth block, with balls-eye corner blocks in place of mitred joints.
7. Hardware: Some original, some modern replacement, some missing.
8. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
9. Heating: Central.

D. General Setting: House on the sidewalk line.